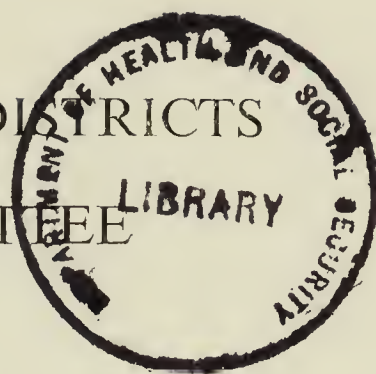


WALLINGFORD AND WANTAGE DISTRICTS
JOINT PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR
1972



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WALLINGFORD AND WANTAGE DISTRICTS JOINT PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

1972 — 1973

WALLINGFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

MR. P. R. HEDLEY, 7 Blackstone Road, Wallingford, Berks.

DR. O. C. WILKINSON, Bezants, Winterbrook, Wallingford, Berks.

WANTAGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MR. J. W. W. HUMPHRIES, 2 Barnards Way, Wantage, Berks.

MRS. S. M. MULLIN, 28 Fyfield Close, Wantage, Berks.

WALLINGFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

MAJOR A. CLEWES, 2 Cronshaw Close, Didcot, Berks.

MR. G. A. HENWOOD, Orchard Cottage, The Square, Brightwell-cum-Sotwell, Wallingford, Berks.

CAPT. C. W. MAYNE, Broomsticks, West Hagbourne, Didcot, Berks.

WANTAGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

MRS. A. M. BALL, Old Compton, Denchworth, Wantage, Berks.

DR. F. B. ELLIS, Tulyar, Letcombe Regis, Wantage, Berks.

MR. W. J. MARTIN, 3 Parkside Bungalows, East Challow, Wantage, Berks. (*Vice-Chairman*).

BERKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MR. T. P. LAWRENCE, Glebe House, Fawley, Wantage, Berks.

DR. A. G. WALTER, Middle Wharf, Thames Street, Wallingford, Berks. (*Chairman*).

CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE

R. R. WRIGHT, Municipal Offices, Stone Hall, Wallingford, Berks.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health

F. R. HOWELL, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Secretary

MRS. E. L. FUDGE

Municipal Offices, Stone Hall, Wallingford, Berks. Telephone 2561.

WALLINGFORD BOROUGH
Senior Public Health Inspector
E. N. SINCLAIR, A.M.I.P.H.E., M.R.S.H.

Additional Public Health Inspector
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Municipal Offices, Stone Hall, Wallingford. Telephone 2561

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Additional Public Health Inspector
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WALLINGFORD RURAL DISTRICT
Chief Public Health Inspector
L. SPROSTON, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

District Public Health Inspector
V. J. CLINCH, M.A.P.H.I.

Churchill House, Broadway, Didcot. Telephone 2301

WANTAGE RURAL DISTRICT
Senior Public Health Inspector
E. H. Rosser, M.A.P.H.I.

Public Health Inspector
S. J. A. Hall, M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector
A. J. REES, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I. (left 5.4.72)
J. D. GUILD, M.A.P.H.I. (appointed 29.5.72)

Council Offices, Belmont, Wantage. Telephone 3211

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
MUNICIPAL OFFICES,
STONE HALL,
WALLINGFORD.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
WALLINGFORD AND WANTAGE DISTRICTS
JOINT PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is probable that this will be the last Annual Report I shall be able to make to you, as the information required for the compilation of these Reports is not normally available before April 1st. May I, therefore, take this opportunity of expressing my sincere thanks for the kindness, consideration and help which successive members have offered to me at our quarterly meetings?

The final pattern for the Community Medical Services in the new Oxfordshire has not, at the time I write, been decided, but the new District Councils will have a medical adviser in the guise of the Community Physician. Environmental Health will, of course, be the responsibility of the Environmental Health Officer but there will be many matters on which he will wish to have medical advice and one hopes there will be a continuation of the close liaison which now exists between the Medical Officer of Health and the Public Health Inspectors.

The population of the Combined District, estimated at mid-year, showed an increase of 330, the fall (320) in the Wallingford Rural District being more than compensated by increases of 100 and 550 respectively in Wantage Urban and Rural Districts. There is no clear reason for the reduction in the Wallingford Rural District population.

The number of live births was 876, which was 207 less than in 1971. This is a reflection of the National figure, which fell by 57,760. No doubt better family planning is partly responsible for this desirable trend, but the Abortion Act of 1967 must be playing an important rôle. Currently abortions are being carried out at about 40,000 a quarter. One rather obvious feature of the table of live births is the large difference between the numbers of males and females born during the year, the former being some 20% greater than the latter. Male births have always been in excess of female births in the country (at least as far back as 1841) but in the order of 2-3%. In the past this tendency was more than compensated for by the higher number of male deaths in infancy and childhood and

losses during wars. Advances in medical treatment and the different character of wars when they do occur, have now eliminated these compensating factors, so that there is now an actual excess of young males. I do not have the national birth rate by sexes for 1972, but I do not imagine it will show the same order of discrepancy or, if it does, that this will persist. It would be rather disquieting if it did, as such a massive number of superfluous males would be bound to create serious problems when they reached maturity. I cannot account for the local figures, but they refer to a relatively very small number of births and have no real significance on their own.

Illegitimate births remained at the rate of 51 per 1,000 total live births, this rate having remained unaltered for four years now and comparing favourably with the National rate of 86 per 1,000, which is slightly higher than in 1971.

The stillbirth rate fell again to the extremely low figure of 8 per 1,000 total births and the perinatal mortality rate (stillbirths plus deaths of infants under 1 week per 1,000 total births) was 16. Both these figures are better than the corresponding National rates of 12 and 22 respectively and demonstrate clearly that the very high standard of local maternity services is being maintained. The infant mortality rate (deaths under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births) was 15, the same as last year, and again comparing well with a National rate of 17. In all there were 13 infant deaths (only 1 being an illegitimate infant); 7 under 1 week; 2 between 1 week and 4 weeks; 2 between 1 month and 12 months of age.

There were 16 fewer deaths than in 1971, 607 in the four Districts. The corrected death rates were all below the National rate of 12.1 per 1,000 population; indeed, even the crude death rate for Wallingford Borough, which is usually artificially high because of the relatively large number of aged residents in institutions situated in the Borough, was only 12.1 per 1,000 population. The causes of death showed no really significant changes. By far the most common was ischaemic heart disease, which caused no less than 29 per cent of all deaths. Taken together with other heart and circulatory conditions this figure reached 53%. The actual number of deaths from ischaemic heart disease was 175, and that was 12 more than in 1971. We all must die, of course, but so many of these deaths occur at an age when life is just reaching fulfilment and many might be prevented. Cigarette smoking; excessive alcohol consumption; a diet too rich in fats and refined sugars; too much stress and tension at work (or at home!): all these make a coronary attack more likely and could mainly be avoided.

The table of infectious diseases does not call for any special comment as there were no significant outbreaks during the year. The figures shown are, of course, the number of actual notifications received, and one must accept that far more cases of illness do

occur. Generally speaking, however, the fluctuations which take place from year to year in the numbers of notifications follow the same pattern as the numbers of cases of illness, so that they do have some value—especially on a National scale.

The statistics relating to immunisation are compiled in the County Health Department and are now produced by computer. I regret to say that most of the figures simply have not come to hand, largely, so far as I can ascertain, because nobody is available to operate the machine. I have given such information as I can and must apologise for the absence of the remainder.

I must admit that I find it hard to understand why it is now thought necessary to dehumanise everything possible. Enormously expensive machines are purchased and, if anyone can be found to press the right button, they will eventually divulge the same figures that were previously available at a moment's notice. That is called progress!

I should like finally to thank my colleagues for their contributions to this report and for their willing assistance at all times. I wish them well in the future—whatever it may hold in store.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

F. R. HOWELL.

August 1973.

POPULATION

District	Area in Acres	Estimated Mid-Year Population		Difference
		1971	1972	
Wallingford Borough	760	6,180	6,180	0
Wantage Urban	2,797	8,340	8,440	+100
Wallingford Rural	21,790	23,920	23,600	—320
Wantage Rural	72,781	20,300	20,850	+550
Combined Districts	98,128	58,740	59,070	+330

LIVE BIRTHS

District	No. of live births in 1972			Crude Birth rate per 1,000 population		Corrected Birth rate per 1,000 population	
	Male	Female	Total	1971	1972	1971	1972
Wallingford Borough	41	38	79	14.1	12.8	13.1	13.4
Wantage Urban	57	48	105	16.1	12.4	16.3	12.5
Wallingford Rural	194	148	342	19.3	14.5	19.7	13.8
Wantage Rural	193	157	350	19.8	16.8	18.8	15.5
Combined Districts	485	391	876	18.4	14.8		
England and Wales			725,405	16.0	14.8	16.0	14.8

STILL BIRTHS

District	No. of still births		Still birth rate per 1,000 total births (live and still)	
	1971	1972	1971	1972
Wallingford Borough	2	0	22.0	0.0
Wantage Urban	2	3	15.0	28.0
Wallingford Rural	3	3	6.0	9.0
Wantage Rural	3	1	7.0	3.0
Combined Districts	10	7	9.2	8.0
England and Wales	9,898	8,794	12.6	12.0

ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS

District	Number of illegitimate births per annum									
	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
Wallingford Borough	3	5	5	4	5	3	6	4	7	10
Wantage Urban	5	3	7	6	8	4	9	5	4	2
Wallingford Rural	28	23	25	18	37	30	30	30	23	19
Wantage Rural	17	15	17	20	16	25	14	15	21	14
Combined Districts	53	46	54	48	66	62	59	54	55	45
Rate per 1,000 total live births (Combined Districts)	53	40	46	40	56	49	51	51	51	51
Rate per 1,000 total live births (England and Wales)	69	72	77	79	84	85	84	83	84	86

TOTAL DEATHS

District	No. of deaths 1972			Crude death rate per 1,000 population		Corrected death rate per 1,000 population	
	Male	Female	Total	1971	1972	1971	1972
Wallingford Borough	25	50	75	17.8	12.1	11.0	7.1
Wantage Urban	37	44	81	9.6	9.6	8.6	8.6
Wallingford Rural	122	137	259	11.0	11.0	10.0	9.9
Wantage Rural	109	83	192	8.4	9.2	10.8	11.7
Combined Districts	293	314	607	10.6	10.3		
England and Wales			591,907	11.6	12.1	11.6	12.1

INFANT MORTALITY

District	No of infant deaths under 12 months of age		Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	
	1971	1972	1971	1972
Wallingford Borough	0	0	0	0
Wantage Urban	2	2	15	19
Wallingford Rural	5	7	11	20
Wantage Rural	9	4	22	11
Combined Districts	16	13	15	15
England and Wales	13,726	12,494	18	17

B.C.G. VACCINATION

School	Number positive at first skin test			Number Vaccinated		
	1970	1971	1972	1970	1971	1972
Wallingford Grammar	2	*	3	52	*	141
Blackstone County Sec.	9	*	—	96	*	215
King Alfred's Grammar	*	1	—	*	49	152
Icknield County Sec.	2	*	3	75	*	254
Didcot Girls' Grammar	*	4	3	*	61	155
St. Birinus County Sec.	3	*	3	87	*	271
Cranford House P.N.E.U.	1	2	*	19	23	*
Segsbury	*	9	6	*	70	167
The Downs	2	6	1	64	108	73
St. Frideswides' County Sec.	5	*	19	109	*	242
Total	24	22	38	502	311	1,670

* Sessions postponed until following year.

MEASLES IMMUNISATION

Wallingford Borough		Wallingford Rural	
County Primary	47	Aston Tirrold	10
Fir Tree Junior	42	Brightwell C.E.	17
Nursery	13	Cholsey Junior	38
St. Nicholas	43	Cholsey Infants	32
—	—	Cranford House	12
145	—	E. Hagbourne C.E.	13
—	—	Greenmere Junior	44
		Lydalls Nursery	4
		L. Wittenham C.E.	5
		Manor Infants	17
		Manor Junior	24
		Northbourne C.E.	30
		Stephen Freeman	45
		S. Moreton	5
			<hr/>
			296
			<hr/>

Wantage Urban		Wantage Rural	
Charlton	32	Ardington Primary	4
County	26	Blewbury C.P.	3
Fitzwaryn	8	Chilton C.P.	24
Infants	18	Compton C.E.	37
Junior	14	E. Hanney C.E.	7
St. Andrew's	8	E. Hendred C.E.	7
Stockham Farm	26	E. Ilsley	3
—	—	Grove	26
132	—	Harwell	20
—	—	Hermitage	11
		Millbrook (J) Grove	8
		Millbrook (I)	9
			<hr/>
			159
			<hr/>

TOTAL = 732

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

	Wfd. Boro	Wantage U.D.	Wfd. R.D.	Wantage R.D.	Total 1972	Total 1971
Acute encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	1
Acute meningitis	—	—	1	—	1	1
Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—
Anthrax	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cholera	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	4	2	4	10	14
Food Poisoning	—	—	2	3	5	9
Infective Jaundice	2	—	—	1	3	1
Leprosy	—	—	—	—	—	—
Leptospirosis	—	—	—	1	1	—
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	59	2	15	3	79	74
Ophthalmia neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid fever	—	—	—	—	—	—
Plague	—	—	—	—	—	—
Relapsing fever	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet fever	—	4	—	4	8	20
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tetanus	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis	—	2	3	—	5	9
Typhoid fever	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhus	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping cough	1	—	—	—	1	7
Yellow fever	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	62	12	23	16	113	136

CHILD WELFARE CLINICS

<i>Centre</i>	<i>Address and when held</i>
Aston Tirrold	Village Hall; First Tuesday, 10–11 a.m. (Advisory only).
Blewbury	Parish Hall; First Tuesday, 2.30–4 p.m. (Advisory only).
Brightwell	Village Hall; First Wednesday, 3.0–4.0 p.m.
Cholsey	The Sports Pavilion; Second and Fourth Wednesdays, 2.0–4.0 p.m.
Compton	Village Hall; Third Wednesday, 2.0–4.15 p.m.
East Challow	Village Hall; Third Monday, 2.0–4.0 p.m.
East Hanney	Village Hall; First Wednesday, 2.0–4.0 p.m.
East Hendred	Parish Hall; Fourth Thursday, 3.0–4.30 p.m.
Grove	Grove Hall; Second and Fourth Fridays, 2.0–4.0 p.m. (Advisory only).
Hermitage	Village Hall; Second Monday, 2.0–4.30 p.m.
Long Wittenham	Village Hall; First Tuesday, 2.30–4.0 p.m.
Wallingford*	Community Hospital; First and Third Fridays, 2.0–4.0 p.m.

FAMILY PLANNING CLINICS

<i>Centre</i>	<i>Address and when held</i>
Didcot	The Didcot Health Centre; Every Monday and Thursday, 7.0–9.0 pm. (Appointments can be booked by 'phoning D.4240 during clinic hours or D.4211 during office hours.)
Wallingford	The Community Hospital; Every Wednesday, 10 a.m.–12 noon; every Thursday, 7.30–9.0 p.m. (Appointments can be booked by 'phoning Crowmarsh 4411 during clinic hours.)
Wantage	Wantage Hospital; First and Third Wednesday of each month, 2.0–3.30 p.m.; Every Thursday, 7.0–8.30 p.m.

CERVICAL CYTOLOGY CLINICS

<i>Centre</i>	<i>Address and when held</i>
Wallingford	The Community Hospital; Third or Fourth Wednesday, 2.0–4.0 p.m.
Wantage	Wantage Hospital; Second or Fourth Wednesday, 2.0–4.0 p.m.

MOBILE CHEST X-RAY SERVICE

The Unit visits as follows:—

Didcot	The Health Centre, Broadway; Tuesdays, 10 a.m.
Wantage	Wantage Hospital; Mondays, 4.0 p.m.

The Unit remains at each site for approximately half an hour. It does not operate on Christmas Eve or Bank Holidays or during the month of August.

CAUSES OF DEATH

	Wallingford Borough		Wantage U.D.		Wallingford R.D.		Wantage R.D.		Combined Districts	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	1972	1971
Infective and parasitic diseases	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	3	—
Malignant neoplasm, buccal cavity	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2	1
Malignant neoplasm, larynx	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, oesophagus	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	—	—	—	—	4	1	3	1	9	9
Malignant neoplasm, intestine	3	1	1	1	1	6	2	4	19	20
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1	—	7	1	12	3	8	3	35	32
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	—	—	3	—	8	—	2	13	8
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, prostate	—	—	—	—	4	—	2	—	6	1
Leukaemia	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Other malignant neoplasms	2	1	1	4	4	5	5	6	28	37
Benign and unspecified neoplasms	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2	2
Diabetes mellitus	—	1	1	—	2	1	—	—	5	10
Other endocrine, etc., diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	1	—	—	1	—	2	1	1	6	5
Hypertensive disease	—	—	—	—	1	4	1	1	7	8
Ischaemic heart disease	10	7	14	11	36	38	32	27	175	163
Other forms of heart disease	—	6	2	3	4	5	4	5	29	31
Other diseases of circulatory system	1	—	2	6	3	7	2	4	25	28
Anaemias	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	2	1
Cerebrovascular disease	1	18	3	5	6	16	15	15	79	78

BOROUGH OF WALLINGFORD

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

WATER SUPPLY

All the dwelling houses in the Borough are supplied with water from main piped supplies.

Twenty-five samples of chlorinated water as distributed were taken for bacteriological examination. All were free of any contamination.

The fluoride content of the water as supplied is 0.12 parts per million. On a number of occasions the Borough Council has indicated to the Water Board that they are in favour of fluoridation of the water supply, but because of the opposition of a lively minority of Councils, the Board has so far refused to increase the fluoride content of the water.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Sewage from the whole of the Borough is pumped for treatment to the Wallingford Rural District Council's disposal works at Cholsey; this arrangement has continued to work satisfactorily.

Surveys of the older sewers in the Borough revealed that they were in poor repair and a scheme for their relaying was prepared. This work has now commenced and is progressing satisfactorily.

REFUSE COLLECTION

A weekly collection of refuse from all properties in the Borough has been carried out throughout the year by a team of three loaders and a driver.

During the year the kerbside dustbin method of refuse collection was abandoned and a backdoor plastic sack collection instituted. The new system is more hygienic and less noisy in operation and the collectors are not involved in heavy lifting. After initial teething troubles the new system is operating satisfactorily.

In addition to the normal weekly collection, the Council on request arranges for the collection of extra or bulky domestic refuse free of charge. To supplement this service a container is provided at the council's depot, where refuse may be dumped by local residents. This container is then removed by a contractor.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

All domestic refuse collected in the Borough is taken to the Wallingford Rural District Council tip for disposal. The system

continues to work satisfactorily. As the life of the existing tip was very limited, negotiations have taken place between the Rural District Council, the Borough Council and the owners of a gravel pit in respect of the use of the pit as a refuse tip.

STREET CLEANSING

All the adopted roads in the Borough are swept at least once a week by the Council's Bedford Lacre Sweeper. This is supplemented by a hand sweeper who concentrates on the town centre.

PEST CONTROL

Summary of rodent work carried out: —

	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Treatments</i>
Premises other than agricultural	87	58
Agricultural premises	—	6

OTHER PESTS

Three outbreaks of fleas were reported during this year.

One was a very slight infestation in a modern house, probably caused by fleas brought in by domestic pets. This house was given one treatment and no further trouble has occurred.

The second outbreak occurred when new tenants moved into a house that had been empty for some time. Again the outbreak was slight and one treatment was sufficient.

The third infestation was in a house occupied by a single elderly lady. It was arranged for her to be away for a day and night on two occasions during which extensive treatments were carried out, and the treatment appears to have been successful.

A number of outbreaks of ants were reported during the year. In most cases the complainants were requested to carry out the treatment themselves. In one case, however, where the outbreak was particularly bad and had occurred in the same place for the past three years, investigation was undertaken by the Public Health Inspector. It was discovered that the centre of the trouble was a large nest under the garden path outside the back door. This path was broken up, the nest destroyed, large amounts of insecticidal powder put down, and the path re-laid. It is hoped that there will be no recurrence during the coming summer.

Twenty-three wasp nests were destroyed during the summer months, and one nest of hornets was reported and destroyed.

MILK SAMPLES

Seventeen samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination, all of which were satisfactory.

One farm in the Borough supplies untreated milk for human consumption. During the year ten samples were taken and tested for Brucella; none showed any evidence of infection.

CREAM SAMPLES

Nineteen samples of cream were taken during the year and two of these were found to be contaminated to some extent. None showed any pathogenic or coliform organisms and were therefore safe for human consumption, but the continued high incidence of bacteria in the samples means that a careful watch must be kept on this product in future.

ICE CREAM

Twenty-one premises are registered for the sale of ice cream. All registered premises have been inspected during the year and all owners or occupiers of the premises notified of any contraventions. The general standards were found to be satisfactory. No ice cream is manufactured in the Borough.

There appears to be a trend towards the "Italian Style" open ice cream as opposed to fully wrapped ice cream. Whilst this is more open to contamination, it appears that, provided the scoops, etc., are kept clean, little trouble is experienced.

Several companies operated vans selling ice cream in the Borough. Whilst the method and time of operation of these vehicles makes it impossible to ensure that all are checked regularly, the general standard of hygiene was found to be satisfactory.

COOKED MEAT SAMPLES

Whilst there is still a problem with this product, the increase of pre-sliced and wrapped meat, which is cut under ideal conditions, has reduced the number of poor samples. There are, however, still a large number of slicing machines in food shops which are all potential carriers of infection.

Seven cooked meat samples were taken during the year—all of which showed bacteriological counts within acceptable limits. Four samples of sausages were taken all of which were satisfactory.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS 1970 (FIXED PREMISES)

Type of Business	No. of premises (at end of year)	Compliance with Reg. 16	No. where Reg. 19 applies	Compliance with Reg. 19
Butcher	6	6	6	6
Grocer	11	11	8	8
Fried Fish Shops	3	3	3	3
Fishmongers	2	2	2	2
Greengrocers	5	5	—	—
Cafés	8	8	8	8
Hotels	1	1	1	1
Bakers	2	2	2	2
Confectionery	11	11	—	—
Public Houses	13	13	13	13
Slaughter Houses	1	1	1	1

The following visits were made to food premises during the year: —

Type of Business	Number of Visits
Butchers	21
Grocers	24
Greengrocers	10
Fried Fish Shops	10
Fishmongers	5
Cafés	29
Hotels	3
Bakers	6
Confectioners	20
Public Houses	6
Off Licence	1

Visits were also made to schools, and the kitchens of hospitals and old people's homes, making a total of 152 visits in connection with the food hygiene regulations.

Five informal notices were served on owners or occupiers and all were complied with.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS (MARKET STALLS AND DELIVERY VEHICLES)

All food stalls in the market and hot dog traders operating in the town are inspected regularly and contraventions pointed out to the stall-holders. It is now rare to find a vehicle or stall that does not comply but the stall-holders occasionally "forget" to set up the washing facilities.

WALLINGFORD FAIR

The following food stalls were present at the Annual Fair: —

- 10 Hot dogs
- 5 Candy floss
- 3 Toffee apple and sweets
- 3 Fish and chips

All were inspected at some time during the fair and contraventions pointed out to the stall-holders.

PREMISES REGISTERED UNDER SECTION 16 OF THE FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1955

(a) Sale of ice cream	11
(b) Fish frying	3
(c) Sausage making, ham boiling, etc.	8
(d) Bakehouses	2
(e) Preparation of "Take-away" meals	1

DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOOD

All fresh meat condemned as unfit for human consumption is sprayed with liquid acid green and destroyed. All condemned or surrendered tinned or frozen food is removed by the local authority to their refuse tip, where it is dumped and buried under the refuse.

BAKEHOUSES

There are two bakehouses in the Borough. Both were inspected on a number of occasions during the year and were found to be generally satisfactory.

IMPORTED FOOD

With the growth of the container system of transport it is now possible for a consignment of imported food to be delivered anywhere in the country without its customary check by Port Health Inspectors at the point of entry. Two such containers were delivered to the Borough during the year. They contained drums of honey which were inspected and found to be satisfactory.

HOUSES AND MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

Twenty-four houses were erected by private enterprise and one house that had been the subject of a closing order was made fit and the closing order lifted.

The only site for moveable dwellings in the town is a small council-operated camping and caravan site at the Riverside Park. This site is for holiday purposes only, the maximum stay permitted being fourteen days.

During the year the following visits were made by the Public Health Inspector in respect of various aspects of housing: —

Houses inspected for defects	34
Houses inspected concerning improvement grants	29
Inspection of works at private houses under the building regulations	112
Other building regulation inspections	17

GENERAL IMPROVEMENT AREA

Following the survey and public meetings, the area improvement scheme was amended to suit as far as possible the wishes of the residents, and it is anticipated that the necessary works to implement the scheme will commence next year.

SWIMMING AND PADDLING POOLS

The Borough Council own and maintain an open-air heated swimming pool and a paddling pool at the Riverside Park near Wallingford Bridge.

Apart from some minor troubles, the recirculation and purification plants have continued to function satisfactorily.

In addition to the Council pool, there are three school swimming pools in the Borough, which are all satisfactory.

Ten samples of water were taken from the pools. Two showed slight bacteriological contamination. The plant serving this pool was checked and adjusted. Further samples were satisfactory.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

The recording apparatus will have been in use for four years at the beginning of February 1972. The picture built up over this period will be used to ascertain what effect, if any, Didcot Power Station, or other source, has on the pollution levels in the Borough.

Levels of pollution in micro-grammes per cubic metre of air samples is: —

	1969 Smoke S02		1970 Smoke S02		1971 Smoke S02		1972 Smoke S02	
January	—	—	47	65	32	52	30	45
February	42	93	25	52	28	54	26	32
March	38	88	17	46	18	48	27	52
April	19	57	11	36	20	41	13	30
May	12	39	14	40	10	35	9	22
June	9	34	10	39	10	23	8	20
July	8	27	6	22	8	23	9	29
August	13	27	12	35	12	31	15	35
September	24	33	23	27	30	46	21	31
October	27	30	30	36	25	38	24	32
November	19	29	27	35	32	50	26	39
December	49	71	45	56	30	46	31	44

NOISE LEVEL

Using the noise level meter, purchased by the Wallingford and Wantage Joint Public Health Committee, noise levels are being taken regularly at a number of points in the Borough in order to build up a set of present normal levels so that the effect which any future development may have on the noise level in any area will be known.

In addition to this, an extensive survey of noise levels has been carried out on the site of the proposed Millbrook Development to ascertain what conditions will exist in and around the new houses. Results so far obtained indicate that unless some action is taken complaints may be expected concerning the noise levels at certain parts of the proposed estate.

FOOD INSPECTION

The following quantities of unsound food were examined and voluntarily surrendered: —

Tinned Meat 70 lb. 2 oz.

In nearly all cases this has been confined to large tins of ham, tongue, and pressed meats which have not been sufficiently processed and the tins have subsequently blown.

Frozen Food (Other than unpacked) 2,457 pkts.

The amounts surrendered were due to breakdowns in refrigeration plants.

Meat (Other than from slaughterhouse) 225½ lb.

Meat condemned at butchers' shops, cafés and schools, usually due to decomposition.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955

The following complaints were received concerning food: —

1. Metal in pork pie.

The complaint concerned a piece of metal in a pork pie. The firm was notified and the metal was found to be part of a machine used in the production line. It was decided that, as the metal was too large to be inadvertently eaten and the firm undertook to take all possible precautions in the future, no action should be taken.

2. Mouldy stewed steak.

A tin of stewed steak was brought to the Public Health Department with a mould growth on the top. As some time had elapsed between opening and the complaint, no action, other than letters to the shop and producer, could be taken.

3. Fly in lemonade.

A bottle of lemonade was brought to the Public Health Department, unopened, containing a large bluebottle fly. This was an obvious contravention of the Food Hygiene Regulations, but as the complaint was made by a retailer it was decided that the item was never offered for sale and therefore, apart from strong representations to the bottlers, no action could be taken.

MEAT INSPECTION

100% inspection is carried out at the one slaughterhouse in the Borough.

Towards the end of the year the condition of the slaughterhouse roof gave cause for concern due to water penetration.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed	238	6	10	794	1679
Number Inspected	238	6	10	794	1679
Whole Carcasses Condemned	—	—	—	2	12
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	15	2	2	32	129
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease	63	33.3	20	43	8.3

There was one case of cysticercosis during the year.

There were no cases of tuberculosis.

Over the last six years the percentage of all animals affected with disease has remained fairly constant.

1967 6.4, 1968 5.5, 1969 6.3, 1970 5.8, 1971 6.4, 1972 7.1.

It is also interesting to note the change in the numbers of each type of animal killed. During the years 1967 to 1971 the number of cattle killed was relatively static—398 in 1967, 360 in 1971. This year, however, the number has dropped to 254. Further breakdown of these figures shows that 1972 was a fairly typical year until autumn. In other years numbers killed rose sharply in November to a December peak. In 1972 there was a drop in November and only a small rise in December. This shortage of cattle probably helped towards the rise in beef prices during the latter quarter of the year.

In the other two main types of meat, pork continued its upward trend and lamb stopped its downward trend and staged a small recovery: —

	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
1967	2246	846
1968	1355	875
1969	1167	1252
1970	1509	1640
1971	594	1397
1972	794	1679

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

FACTORIES ACT 1961

PART ONE OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on register	Inspections	Number of Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by the local authority	1	1	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority	57	20	—	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	2	5	—	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Number of Defects Found	Number of Defects Remedied	Number of Prosecutions
Want of Cleanliness	3	3	—
Defective Sanitary Conveniences	1	1	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outworkers—Nil.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT

During the year, 49 visits have been made to premises with particular reference to the Act, in the course of which 9 minor contraventions were found and pointed out to persons responsible. All were remedied without the need for any formal action.

At the end of the year the following number of premises were registered: —

Offices	34
Retail Shops	82
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	4
Catering Establishments open to the public	9
Fuel Storage Depots	1
	<hr/>
	130
	<hr/>

No accidents within the scope of this Act were reported during the year.

August, 1973.

WANTAGE URBAN DISTRICT

REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR WATER SUPPLIES

The supply of water for the town continues to be drawn from the boreholes in Manor Road augmented by the trunk mains from Childrey Warren. The chlorine dosage is 0.25 parts per million and the fluoride content is 0.1 parts per million.

A total of fourteen samples of both treated and raw water have been taken from various premises in the district supplied by the Thames Valley Water Board. All were found to be satisfactory.

There are 3,055 dwellings situated in the district supplied directly by public mains. The remaining dwelling having an external stand-pipe has been dealt with under Section 16 of the Housing Act 1957, and following discussions with the owners it is expected that next year this property may be improved to a high standard including an internal water supply.

There are eight private boreholes or wells in the district giving private supplies to fourteen properties. A total of eight samples have been taken for bacteriological examination from these private supplies. Four were found to be satisfactory and four unsatisfactory. The latter were taken from the same supply, and following discussions with the owners of this supply a chlorination plant was installed. Further samples proved to be satisfactory. In every case where contamination occurs householders are warned of the danger and strongly advised to boil all water used for domestic and drinking purposes.

Following a report of lead poisoning to the Medical Officer of Health, as a safeguard, samples of water were taken for chemical analysis from the place of employment and house of the individual concerned; both samples proved to be satisfactory, there being an absence of lead.

MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS

Three samples of milk have been taken from various shops in the town for bacteriological examination. All were found to be satisfactory and no cases of overstocking have occurred.

No samples have been taken for brucella abortus examination.

CREAM

Two samples of cream were taken for bacteriological examination. These were found to be satisfactory.

One shop was warned about the retention of old stock, following a complaint regarding a sour carton of double cream, but generally

no retention of old stock has been observed.

Following joint consultation with the Wantage Rural District Council Health Department, a local dairy introduced open date expiring code on all products.

YOGHURT

Five samples of yoghurt were taken for bacteriological examination. All were found to be satisfactory and no retention of old stock has been observed.

ICE-CREAM

Samples of ice-cream have been taken from various hotels, cafés and shops in the town. Joint sampling at the Tonibell Depot has continued with the Wantage Rural District Council Health Department. Again there were a few unsatisfactory results, but following strict supervision of the cleansing and sterilization of both plant and vehicles no further unsatisfactory samples were obtained.

In all, twenty-four samples were taken with the following results:

Grade	1	2	3	4
No. of samples	18	2	3	1

OTHER FOODS

Seven samples of meat pies, etc., were taken during the year for bacteriological examination. Six were found to be satisfactory, and one was found to be unsatisfactory, this being due to the method of storage and handling which, following discussions with the shop-keeper, have been altered and further samples proved to be satisfactory.

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1970

Trade	Number	Comply with Reg. 16	Reg. 19 applies	Comply with Reg. 19
Bakers, Shops, Bakehouses	5	5	5	5
Butchers	7	7	7	7
Cafés, Canteens, Restaurants	6	6	6	6
Chemists	2	2	2	2
Wet Fish	2	2	2	2
Fried Fish	2	2	2	2
Greengrocers	6	6	—	4
Grocers and General Stores	18	17	18	18
Hotels & Licensed Premises	16	15	16	16
Public Halls and Clubs	9	5	9	7
School Meals Kitchens	10	10	10	10
Sweet Shops	9	9	—	—
Other Premises	8	8	7	7
Totals	100	94	84	86

FOOD HYGIENE

All food premises, canteens, etc., in the district are inspected from time to time. In most cases standards have been satisfactory. However where there were difficulties more frequent visits were made.

MEAT AND OTHER FOOD INSPECTIONS

The following foods were inspected and found to be unfit for human consumption. All unsound food was voluntarily surrendered and buried or burned on the tip under supervision.

	lb.	oz.
CANNED MEAT	27	0
OTHER CANNED FOODS	149	4
FROZEN CHICKENS	166	4
OTHER FROZEN FOODS	1,394	9
FRESH FISH	54	0
CAKES	1	8
FRESH MEAT	20	0
FRESH VEGETABLES	10	0
Total	1822	9

There are no poultry processing premises in the District. Routine inspections of poultry in shops are carried out. No seizures were made during the year.

FOOD COMPLAINTS

The following food complaints have been investigated and satisfactorily dealt with informally during the year.

1. Foreign matter in tin of grapefruit.
2. Mould on bread.
3. Foreign matter in carton of yoghurt.
4. Mould on Weetabix.
5. Tin tack in black pudding.
6. Sour carton of double cream.
7. Curler in 6 lb. pack of sausages.
8. Sliver of metal in tin of corned beef.
9. Foreign matter in sliced loaf.
10. Mould on fruit pie.
11. Nail in packet of tea.
12. Foreign body in pack of cheese.
13. Leaf in bottle of milk.

SWIMMING BATHS

The undermentioned swimming baths are situated within this District: —

The Wantage Urban District Council pool	Public
Paddling pool	Public
Icknield Secondary Modern School pool	Private
King Alfred's Grammar School pool	Private
Garston Lane School pool	Private
St. Mary's Convent School pool	Private

The swimming pools were inspected throughout the bathing season and no difficulties were experienced in maintaining standards.

The Council-owned swimming pool was greatly improved. Before the start of the season the sides and bottom of the pool were cleaned, repaired and treated with thermo-plastic paint.

A new chlorinator was purchased and this has proved satisfactory for the size of the pool and bathing loads to maintain chlorine levels.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

The Haven Vale residential caravan site off Garston Lane, which is licensed for 27 moveable dwellings under the Caravan Sites Control and Development Act of 1960, has been regularly inspected during the year. The manager of the site continues to replace the older vehicles with modern vans and mobile homes and following discussions many of the older caravans have been improved. All caravans now have internal W.C. and only two remain without internal bathrooms.

Only one complaint was received during the year regarding condensation and this was in one of the older caravans. Works were carried out to improve the van and no further complaints were received.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The 60 cubic yard refuse vehicle has proved adequate for the collection of refuse in the district.

The Council have had difficulties in obtaining a driver with a Heavy Goods Vehicle Licence for this vehicle and for a number of weeks were forced to hire a driver from a local firm. However, a permanent driver has been obtained.

The Council continue to tip at the Abingdon Rural District Council tip at Marcham.

The 'S' Hill tip off Manor Road, which was made available at all times to the public last year, was misused by contractors both local and from other areas and the space for tipping became extremely limited. The Council were forced to revert to the previous times of

opening for the disposal of bulky items of refuse, i.e. Wednesdays and Saturdays.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The works which were completed last year have dealt satisfactorily with the present flow to the works, being capable of dealing with a dry weather flow of one million gallons per day.

There are still a number of areas and villages in the surrounding district to be brought on to this system, and it may be necessary next year to instigate further extensions to the works to cope with this intake.

DISINFESTATION AND DISINFECTION

It has not been necessary to carry out disinfection on any premises this year.

The annual fumigation of the flour mill in Mill Street was carried out in August 1972 using hydrogen cyanide. No problems were experienced.

All complaints of wasps' nests have been dealt with by a private operator.

RODENT CONTROL

The exemption granted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food, for test baiting sewers is still operative and no infestations of sewers has been observed.

No problems have been experienced during the year except with the use of Warfarin against mice, which takes longer to achieve results. The Council's rodent control operator retired during the year and the Council now use the services of the Wantage Rural District Council's rodent control staff.

More farmers are now using and relying on the Council's operators to control rodents and no problems have been experienced.

	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
1. Number of properties in district	3011	44
2. (a) Total number of properties inspected following notification	38	4
(b) Number infested by		
(i) rats	30	4
(ii) mice	8	4
3. (a) Total inspections other than by notification	211	7
(b) Number infested by		
(i) rats	36	3
(ii) mice	9	3

HOUSING

	1970	1971	1972
Number of permanent houses erected	8	28	39
Number of permanent houses erected by local authority	0	—	12
Number of permanent houses erected by private enterprise	8	28	27
Number of temporary houses erected	—	—	—
Number of families on housing list	239	193	176
Number of elderly people on O.P.D. list	76	79	74
Number of houses represented as unfit	37	3	—
Number of Closing Orders made	—	3	—
Number of demolition orders made	1	—	—
Number of houses in area represented as unfit and included in clearance areas	36	—	—

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Number of applications made for standard grants	10	10	6
Number of applications made for discretionary grants	2	7	9

There are no common lodging houses in the district.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

Routine inspections have continued during the year and no alarming contraventions were found.

FACTORIES ACT 1961

PART ONE OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on register	Inspections	Number of written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by the local authority	1	1	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority	34	18	4	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Totals	35	19	4	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Found	Remedied	No. of cases in which defects were found		No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted	
			Referred to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector		
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	5	5	—	—	—	
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	3	3	—	—	—	
Totals	8	8	—	—	—	

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK — NIL

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Notification of accidents received — Nil.

Number of visits to premises by Inspectors — 125.

REGISTRATION AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Class of Premises	Number of premises registered during the year	Number of registered premises at end of year	Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	1	39	10
Retail Shops	1	79	25
Wholesale shops and warehouses	—	1	—
Catering establishments open to the public, Canteens	—	10	7
Fuel storage depots	—	—	—
Totals	2	129	42

PERSONS EMPLOYED ON REGISTERED PREMISES IN 1971

Workplace	Males	Females	Total
Offices	97	91	188
Retail shops	86	296	382
Wholesale shops and warehouses	9	—	9
Catering establishments	12	28	40
Canteens	—	8	8
Fuel depots	—	—	—
Totals	204	423	627

No prosecutions were made during the year.

SUMMARY OF VISITS BY PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Atmospheric pollution and noise	...	...	...	...	32
Building, structures	...	...	...	...	43
Diseases of animals	...	...	...	...	5
Disinfestation	...	...	...	...	20
Drainage, sewage disposal	...	...	...	...	49
Factories, workshops, etc.	...	...	...	...	20
Food inspection, complaints	...	...	...	...	43
Food hygiene, licensed premises	...	...	...	...	158
Housing	...	...	...	...	309
Infectious diseases	...	...	...	...	4
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	59
Mobile food shops, vehicles, stalls	...	...	...	...	63
Moveable dwellings	...	...	...	...	53
Nuisances	...	...	...	...	28
Petroleum and explosives	...	...	...	...	63
Public conveniences	...	...	...	...	20
Refuse collection and disposal	...	...	...	...	48
Rodent control	...	...	...	...	382
Sampling	...	...	...	...	86
Shops, offices, hairdressers	...	...	...	...	117
Swimming and paddling pools	...	...	...	...	98
Water	...	...	...	...	44

Total number of visits 1744

Total number of complaints received	...	...	...	112
Total number of complaints substantiated	...	...	...	89
Number of defects or nuisances remedied	...	...	...	83
Number of formal notices served	...	...	...	Nil
Number of informal notices served	...	...	...	67

June, 1973

WALLINGFORD RURAL DISTRICT

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

WATER SUPPLY

The Council has agreed in principle to make a contribution towards the cost of extending the mains water supply from the Wallingford Borough boundary to the Shillingford Hill Caravan Site.

During the year 3 samples of mains water were submitted for examination and reported on as satisfactory. Fifty-three samples of water were taken from private wells, bores, etc. Thirty of these samples were reported satisfactory, and 23 samples unsatisfactory. Appropriate advice was given to the householders from which the 23 unsatisfactory samples were taken.

The Chief Engineer of the Thames Valley Water Board has submitted the following report on the mains water supply for the district: —

As in the previous year, the main sources of supply to the area were boreholes at Aston Tirrold, Compton and Cholsey, with additional water available from Cleeve, Woods Farm and Blewbury.

The stand-by works at West Hagbourne and South Moreton were not used during the year, while Upton pumping station was operated for a very limited period.

The supply to the area was satisfactory in both quantity and quality, and no instances of unusual contamination were experienced during the year. Samples as detailed were collected from the treatment works and distribution system and the fluoride content of the water from the various sources are shown in the chemical analysis table.

Source	No. of Samples
Aston Tirrold Works	80
Cholsey Works	40
Compton Works	45
Upton Works	13
Aston Tirrold Reservoir	1
West Hagbourne Reservoir	4
Hagbourne Hill Reservoir	2
Moulsford Reservoir	4
Tap samples	34

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF WATER

Source		Aston Tirrold	Cholsey	Compton
Appearance		Aerated, becoming clear and bright	Aerated, becoming clear and bright	Clear and bright
Colour (Hazen)		Nil	Less than 5	Nil
Odour		None	None	None
Turbidity (Silica Scale)		Nil	0.2	0.5
Electrical Conductivity @ 20° C.		410	725	475
pH		7.3	7.1	7.6
Free carbon dioxide		15	42	9
Ammoniacal nitrogen (N)		0.000	0.000	0.000
Albuminoid nitrogen (N)		0.008	0.012	0.012
Nitrite (N)		Absent	Absent	Absent
Permanganate Value 4 hrs. @ 27° C.		0.08	0.15	0.07
Iron		0.01	Less than 0.01	0.01
Other Metals		Absent	Absent	Absent
Carbonate Hardness CaCO ₃		200	250	212
Non Carbonate Hardness CaCO ₃		8	162	53
Total Hardness CaCO ₃		208	412	265
Chloride (Cl)		13.7	41.8	17.0
Nitrate (N)		4.2	2.8	10.4
Sulphate (SO ₄)		14.5	134	17
Calcium (Ca)		79.5	160	102
Magnesium (Mg)		2	3	2.5
Sodium (Na)		19.3	15	8.6
Potassium (K)		1.7	6.5	3.5
Silica (SiO ₂)		17	18	11
Phosphate (PO ₄)		0.04	0.08	0.06
Natural Fluoride (F)		0.12	Less than 0.1	Less than 0.1
Total solids		300	605	375

Results are given in mgm/litre where appropriate.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The new Didcot Sewage Works was commissioned in June 1972 but was found to be inadequate to deal with the loading from the canning factory, which had increased their output four or five times during the course of the construction of the works.

The canning factory have now agreed to pay for the extensions to the works; these are in hand at an estimated cost of £135,000, and it is hoped that they will be completed in time for the next potato season, i.e. June 1973. In the meantime, however, a satisfactory standard of effluent is being obtained from Didcot Works and also all other works in the district.

A new humus tank is proposed for the Cholsey Works for next year and a scheme for the drainage of the village of Moulsoford has been prepared.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Refuse collection and disposal services have continued satisfactorily during the year. The bulky spring clean service was a considerable success, with very large quantities of refuse being collected.

The present refuse tip at Pearith Farm is now nearly full and it is anticipated that the pit at Appleford will be brought into use, probably in the late summer of 1973.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the district.

RODENT CONTROL

SUMMARY OF WORK CARRIED OUT DURING 1972

	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
Number of properties in district	8164	247
Number of inspections	436	472
Number of infestations treated (rats)	154	121
(mice)	101	45

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There is one licensed slaughterhouse in the district. The particulars are as follows:

Location

5 Hagbourne Road, Didcot.

Owners

H. Andrews and Sons, 5 Hagbourne Road, Didcot, Berks.

MEAT INSPECTION 1972

	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Pigs	Sheep & Lambs
January	10	—	3	48	24
February	13	—	2	44	27
March	9	—	2	67	24
April	10	—	3	46	16
May	11	—	3	50	25
June	8	—	1	45	29
July	7	—	2	46	32
August	9	—	3	52	56
September	11	—	6	46	23
October	10	—	5	49	35
November	8	—	3	57	8
December	4	—	1	58	6
Total	110	—	34	608	305

Tuberculosis

Whole Carcase	—	—	—	—	—
Part Carcase/ Organs	—	—	—	11	—
Percentage	—	—	—	1.8	—

Cysticercosis Bovis

Organs	1	—	—	—	—
Percentage	0.92	—	—	—	—

Diseases other than Tuberculosis or C. Bovis

Whole Carcase	—	—	—	1	2
Part Carcase/ Organs	5	—	—	71	6
Percentage	4.6	—	—	11.8	2.6

MEAT AND OFFAL CONDEMNED AS UNFIT

Meat	484 lbs.
Offal	360 lbs.
Poultry	148 lbs.
	<hr/>
	992 lbs.
	<hr/>

FOOD AND DRUGS ADMINISTRATION

MILK

There are 24 registered distributors of milk in the district, and as far as the Council is aware there are no distributors retailing raw untreated milk. No samples of milk were taken for examination during the year.

COMPLAINTS

Two complaints concerning milk were received during the year. The first complaint referred to a dirty milk bottle delivered by Express Dairies Ltd. to a customer in the Romsey and Stockbridge Rural District. The Romsey and Stockbridge R.D. were advised to proceed against the firm direct. The second complaint referred to a dirty milk bottle delivered by the same firm in the Didcot area. The Council took legal proceedings against the firm, who were fined £15 plus £6 costs.

ICE CREAM

The number of premises in the district registered for the manufacture of ice cream is one, although no manufacturing is carried out at present.

There are 51 premises registered for the storage and sale of ice cream.

During the year 16 samples of ice cream were submitted for bacteriological examination and the results were as follows: : —

- 14 samples — Grade I
- 2 samples — Grade III

GENERAL

The undermentioned complaints relating to food offered for sale were dealt with during the year: —

- (1) Wire staple in piece of frying steak—letter to retailer.
- (2) Strained chocolate pudding—no further action after reply from manufacturer.
- (3) Piece of muslin in bacon joint—manufacturer's explanation "muslin salt bag"—no further action.
- (4) Maggot in tin of Italian peeled tomatoes—representations made to wholesaler.
- (5) Loaf contaminated by black spots on exterior—analyst's report: caramelised sugar or jam—no further action.
- (6) Small brown loaf contaminated by grease and dough—letter of warning to bakery.
- (7) Spider in tin of spaghetti rings—no further action in view of delay between opening tins and reporting contamination.

- (8) Mouldy steak and kidney pie—prosecution—retailer fined £20 plus £10 costs.
- (9) Foreign body in sliced white loaf—analyst's report: "burnt crust"—no further action.
- (10) Drawing pin in cottage roll—prosecution—bakery fined £50 plus £15 costs.
- (11) Can of steak with mushroom pie filling—analyst's report: "leaf stalk"—no further action.
- (12) Discoloration of internal surface of a tin of tomato soup—investigated with manufacturer—no further action.
- (13) Foreign body in small cottage loaf—no action in view of delay between time of purchase and reporting the contamination.
- (14) Green discoloration inside doughnut—no action after considering laboratory report.
- (15) Mould growth on two part-baked loaves—warning letter to retailer.
- (16) Mould growth on faggots—warning letter to retailer.
- (17) Pasteurised double cream which was sour—letter of warning to retailer.
- (18) Dirty milk bottle—prosecution—dairy fined £15 plus £6 analyst's fee and part advocate's fee (£5).
- (19) Mould growth on liver pâté—letter of warning to retailer.
- (20) Strand of hair in jar of marmalade—letter of warning to manufacturer.
- (21) Pork sausages (sour)—letters of warning to manufacturer and retailer.
- (22) Foreign body in loaf of bread—prosecution—bakery fined £50 plus £15 costs.
- (23) Strand of fibre in bread roll—no further action.
- (24) Fly in tin of prawns—canned abroad—representations to importer.

VOLUNTARY SURRENDER OF FOODS UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

	<i>cwts.</i>	<i>qtrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
CANNED FOOD	8	3	9
FROZEN FOOD	5	2	17
DRIED FOOD	4	—	7
	17	6	5

STATISTICS—FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 1970

FOOD PREMISES IN THE DISTRICT

Grocers	39
Confectioners	15
Hotels and Guest Houses	6
Public Houses	27
Licensed Clubs	5
Food Factories and Warehouses	8
Butchers	16
Greengrocers	7
Bakehouses	4
Fish Shops	5
Restaurants and Cafés	7
Bread and Cake Shops	4
Schools, Nursing Homes	18

PREMISES REGISTERED UNDER SECTION 16 OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Manufacture of ice cream	1
Storage and sale of ice cream	51
Fish frying	3
Sausage making, ham boiling, etc.	11
Bakehouses	4
Preparation of take-away meals	1

POULTRY INSPECTION

No. of poultry processing establishments	1
Number of visits	8
Total number of birds processed	9407
Types of birds processed	Fowls and Turkeys
Percentage of birds rejected	3 %

NOTICES SERVED DURING 1972

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	16
Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1970	13
Factories (Sanitary Conveniences)	1
Housing Repairs	4

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

During 1972 two complaints concerning atmospheric pollution were received. One complaint related to nuisance from a domestic oil-fired boiler, the other to nuisance caused by a tradesman burning rubbish at the rear of his shops. Both complaints were dealt with informally.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

During 1972 one person was buried by the local authority under the provisions of the National Assistance Act 1948, Section 50.

SWIMMING BATHS

The undermentioned swimming baths are situated within the district:

Edmonds Park, Didcot (public)

Girls' Grammar School, Didcot (private)

Cranford House School, Moulsoford (private)

Shillingford Bridge Hotel, Nr. Wallingford (public)

Primary School, East Hagbourne (private)

One sample of swimming bath water was taken during 1972.

HOUSING

During 1972 one house was represented as unfit for habitation.

The undermentioned development is in progress in Didcot at the present time:

STATION ROAD, DIDCOT — 20 4 b/r houses, 55 3 b/r houses, 40 2 b/r flats.

ABBOTT ROAD, DIDCOT — 4 3 b/r houses.

MERELAND ROAD, DIDCOT — 30 3 b/r houses.

The first four 4 b/r houses on the Station Road site were let on the 11th December, 1972.

The Council is also planning to erect a pair of 3 b/r bungalows in Mereland Road, Didcot, specifically designed for disabled persons.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

During 1972 the Council promised the following grants for house improvements:

Discretionary — 13 (£10,486); Standard — 10 (£1,421).

The number of applicants on the Council's Housing List at the end of 1972 was 794.

CARAVANS

The undermentioned licensed caravan sites are situated within the district:

SHILLINGFORD HILL CARAVAN SITE, NR. WALLINGFORD

120 permanent sites. 40 holiday sites. Water supply is at present obtained from a bore. Cross Country Caravans Ltd. are investigating the possibility of providing mains water for the site, and providing a new drainage system.

BLAGRAVE FARM SITE, DIDCOT

28 permanent sites. This site is to be run down—the operators are not accepting any new tenants on the site.

THREE POPLARS SITE, LONG WITTENHAM

32 permanent sites—satisfactory.

CAVENDISH PARK SITE, DIDCOT

100 permanent sites—satisfactory.

ORCHARD CARAVAN SITE, CHOLSEY

12 permanent sites. The improvements to this site are now almost completed.

BRIDGE HOUSE CARAVAN SITE, LONG WITTENHAM

6 permanent sites. 40 holiday sites. 12 holiday caravans—satisfactory.

BASIL HILL ROAD CARAVAN SITE, DIDCOT

The Council has agreed to lease the above site from the G.E.G.B. with effect from 1st April, 1973. There will be provision for 100 permanent sites. Various improvements are required to the site.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

General inspections have continued at a satisfactory rate in line with the aim of all registered premises being inspected at three-yearly intervals. Standards generally are good, the major deficiencies being found were insufficient first-aid materials and the lack of an Abstract.

Section 22 of the Act has not been invoked during 1972.

TABLE A — REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Class of Premises	Number of premises newly registered during the year	Number of registered premises at end of year	Number of registered premises receiving one or more general inspections during the year
Offices	3	35	12
Retail shops	2	80	24
Wholesale shops, warehouses	—	1	1
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	1	8	2
Fuel storage depots	—	—	—
Totals	6	124	39

TABLE B — NUMBER OF VISITS OF ALL KINDS (INCLUDING
GENERAL INSPECTIONS) TO REGISTERED PREMISES

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TABLE C — ANALYSIS BY WORKPLACE OF PERSONS EMPLOYED
IN REGISTERED PREMISES AT END OF YEAR

Class of workplace	Number of persons employed
Offices	302
Retail shops	380
Wholesale departments, warehouses	37
Catering establishments open to the public	43
Canteens	2
Fuel storage depots	—
Total	764
Total Males	306
Total Females	458

There were no exemptions or prosecutions during the year.

Number of inspectors appointed under section 52(1) or (5) of the
Act — 2.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

FACTORIES ACT 1961

PART I OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises	Number on register	Inspections	Number of written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	—	—	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Sec- tion 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	50	16	1	—
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is en- forced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	1	1	—	—
Total	51	17	1	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Want of cleanliness — 1 (remedied)

Referred by H.M. Inspector.

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork — Number of workers required by Section 133 (1) (c):

Cleaning and washing of wearing apparel — 1.

Making of Jewellery — 5.

March 1973.

WANTAGE RURAL DISTRICT

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOOD ADMINISTRATION

MILK

All milk sold in the district is subject to heat treatment and one pasteuriser's licence and ten dealers' licences were in force during the year.

In view of the fact that no 'Untreated' milk was being retailed in the district, no samples were taken for *Brucella abortus* examination.

Four complaints of foreign matter in milk were received as follows: —

- (i) *Sediment in milk* — The Public Analyst found that this was finely granulated milk solids and no further action was taken.
- (ii) *Foreign body in milk* — Found by the Public Analyst to be essentially a lump of coagulated butter fat probably caused by the milk being kept in a warm place then shaken. Again no further action was taken.
- (iii) *Leaf in a one-third pint bottle of school milk*—Milk discoloured. Dairy prosecuted and fined £15 plus costs.
- (iv) *Glass in a one-pint bottle of milk* — Dairy prosecuted and fined £30 plus costs.

MILK PRODUCTS

The plant at Grove continued to manufacture a whole range of dairy products in spite of operational difficulties occasioned by the major alterations mentioned in last year's report. The improvements were still in progress at the end of the year.

Ten samples of pasteurised double cream and two samples of pasteurised single cream were taken during the year together with one sample of the raw milk used for cream production. No pathogens were isolated from these samples, but some problems were experienced with aerobic spore-bearing organisms which led to a poor shelf life. Similar trouble was experienced by a neighbouring authority and the matter was brought to the attention of the dairy proprietors who gave full co-operation in attempting to find the source of the contamination. This was finally traced to one of the farms supplying the milk for cream production, and this milk was not used again.

Following consultations with the P.H.I. at Wantage Urban District Council and the dairy proprietors an open date coding system for milk products was introduced during the year.

FOOD PREMISES

The following food premises were in use during the year: —

School meals kitchens	20
Staff canteens (U.K.A.E.A., S.R.C., A.R.C. canteens and U.K.A.E.A. hostels)	8
Cafés and restaurants	7
Public houses	50
Grocers and confectioners	54
Butchers	7
Fish and chip shops	2
Greengrocers	3
Off licences	3
Bakehouses	4
	<hr/>
	158

Two butchers were licensed for the sale of game.

Two new restaurants opened during the year, one at Upton and one at Challow Station. Meanwhile one tea-room closed at Harwell, but it is expected that this will re-open on a larger scale in 1973. A further café was closed at Hampstead Norreys.

A total of 147 visits were made to 75 separate premises.

MOBILE TRADERS AND FRUIT STALLS

The mobile greengrocer at Grove ceased operations during the year but the ice cream vendor continued his business. Both fruit stalls in Harwell were inspected and found to be satisfactory.

ICE CREAM

The total number of premises registered under the Food and Drugs Act for the storage and sale of ice cream remained at 56. Again no pre-packed ice cream samples were taken but 18 samples of soft ice cream from mobile vendors were taken at the Wantage Depot, this work being carried out jointly with the Urban District Council's Inspector. The results were as follows: —

Grade I	12
Grade II	2
Grade III	3
Grade IV	1

All vans giving Grades III and IV samples were carefully checked and re-sampled until satisfactory results were achieved.

WATERCRESS

The cress beds at Letcombe Bassett continued to operate without any problems. The chlorine dipping of cress before sale continued as a precautionary measure.

FOOD INSPECTION

The following food was voluntarily surrendered during the year: —

Fresh meat and offal at retail shops nil

Frozen foods (due to cabinet failures) 10 cwt.

Seven complaints concerning the quality of food were received during the year as follows: —

COCKROACH IN A LOAF OF BREAD — Investigated at retail shop and bakery in Wantage. A minor infestation of cockroaches was discovered in the bakery and remedied. No further action was taken.

MOULDY DESSERT — A carton of dessert was found to be mouldy due to inadequate stock rotation. Advice was given to the retailer.

MOULDY ICE CREAM — Remainder of stock at shop checked and no further problems discovered. Manufacturer informed.

ANTS IN JAM TARTS — Infestation of ants found in retail shop. Premises completely cleansed and treated. No further action.

FOREIGN BODY IN FROZEN COD — Found to be a large piece of bone. Processing Company informed.

MOULD IN CAN OF MINCED BEEF AND ONION WITH GRAVY — The complainant purchased the can in the Abingdon Rural District and the matter was therefore referred to that Council. The manufacturers were subsequently prosecuted and fined £20 with £20 costs.

METAL IN PORK SAUSAGE — This appeared to be part of a metal “tag” which evaded the normal checks at the factory. The manufacturers were sent a warning letter.

FOOD POISONING AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES

A small outbreak of salmonellosis occurred at Compton amongst the staff of the A.R.C. The cause was traced to some calves which were subsequently slaughtered and the carcasses burned. The affected persons co-operated by submitting faecal specimens until three clear ones were received.

Several visits were made to possible smallpox contacts as a precautionary measure.

In all, 42 visits were paid to various homes as a result of notifications.

POULTRY PROCESSING

No poultry processing plants were in operation in the district.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

Two licensed slaughterhouses continued in use during the year, i.e.:

Agricultural Research Council, Field Station, Compton.

The Pig Improvement Co. Ltd., Pound Croft Farm, East Hanney.

The latter establishment was used solely for the slaughter of sows following hysterectomy operations performed under veterinary supervision. In all, 13 sows were slaughtered during the year.

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART AT A.R.C. COMPTON

	Cattle excl. cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Goats
Number killed and inspected	86	88	75	67	727	48
<i>All diseases except tuberculosis and cysticercosis</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	1	—	—	5	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	4	22	2	5	26	—

There were no cases of tuberculosis or cysticercosis.

Total weight of meat and offal condemned — 1 ton 1 cwt. 104 lb.

Income from meat inspection charges — £72.64.

Slaughtermen licensed at the end of the year — 6.

Number of visits made by inspectors to slaughterhouses — 173.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

The following is a summary of the Annual Report submitted to the Department of Employment and Productivity for the year ending 31st December 1972: —

Class of premises	No. registered during the year	No. registered at end of year	General inspections
Offices	Nil	12	1
Retail shops	2	37	29
Catering establishments open to the public	2	7	7
Fuel storage depots	Nil	2	Nil
Totals	4	58	37

No major contraventions of the Act were noted and any minor deficiencies were dealt with informally.

Total number of visits to registered premises of all kinds ... 50

REFUSE COLLECTION SERVICE

This service continued to operate reasonably well throughout the district during the year under review. Three vehicles and nine operatives were employed generally with a tenth man brought in on three days per week.

Tipping sites at Shellingford and Marcham were again used and the tip at Hampstead Norreys was merely used for the convenience of the public to comply with the requirements of the Civic Amenities Act.

Reclamation work at Farnborough refuse tip was nearing completion by the end of the year and it was intended to return the tip to the owner for agricultural use during 1973.

Packaging again posed a problem in the collection of refuse as bulk continued to increase with very little increase in weight which remained at around 7,000 tons. It is inevitable, in my view, that some treatment in the form of compaction, or incineration, will have to be used very shortly if the life of the disposal sites is to be prolonged.

Forty-two contracts with shopkeepers and others for the removal of trade refuse were negotiated in the sum of £172.50.

Approximately 50 visits were made by inspectors. This is a considerable reduction on previous years, since most complaints of missed bins, etc., were dealt with by the Superintendent.

CIVIC AMENITIES ACT 1967

As reported above, Hampstead Norreys refuse tip was again used by the public for disposing of bulky items of refuse. However, by the end of the year the disposal centre at Challow Road Depot was open and it is hoped that this will be well used.

The bulk collection service continued to operate throughout the year, but due to staff shortages most of the work had to be put out to contractors. In all, 433 collections of this kind were made, an increase of 155 over the previous year. In addition, in June, the Council adopted a policy of removing, free of charge, old, unwanted motor vehicles and during the six months that this service was provided 34 cars were removed and destroyed. This meant a saving of inspector's time, as it is fairly safe to assume that many of these vehicles would have been abandoned in the countryside where the difficulties of removal and the administrative work would

have been greater. As it was, a total of 38 vehicles were found abandoned, an increase of 22 over the previous year. These were dealt with under the relevant provisions of the Act, but some difficulty was experienced in tracing the last registered owners to whom accounts would normally be sent. Information as to ownership was often not received for some time after the discovery and removal of the vehicle, and during this time ownership had sometimes passed to another person.

The net cost to the Council for all work under the Civic Amenities Act was £766·49. This was a considerable increase over the previous year, mainly due to the greater use of private contractors and the introduction of the free vehicle removal service.

DISPOSAL OF POISONOUS WASTE ACT 1972

This Act came into force during the year and as a result all Local Authorities were charged with the responsibility of ensuring that all poisonous waste was disposed of in the proper manner. A somewhat complicated system of notification was introduced whereby Local Authorities and River Boards at both despatching and receiving ends are informed of the type and quantity of waste and other relevant facts.

At A.E.R.E. an organisation existed which was capable of dealing with all manner of toxic waste, and an early meeting between this organisation, the Thames Conservancy and the Public Health Department was arranged. Subsequently, close liaison on all matters concerning waste arriving at Harwell was maintained, but because of the volume of work being handled by the Hazardous Waste Service at A.E.R.E. the department was involved in a good deal of administrative work.

During the year 20 notifications were received, and it is to be expected that the number will increase considerably during 1973.

SEPTIC TANK EMPTYING SERVICE

This service continued during the year, but once more it must be reported that labour shortages resulted in the tanker driver being transferred to the refuse collection service on numerous occasions. This meant that contractors had to be employed. All requests for free emptyings were given priority and dealt with as expeditiously as possible whether by direct labour or by contractor, but for a good part of the year requests for chargeable emptyings had to be referred direct to contractors. This was not accepted willingly by many householders who had hitherto been used to a cheaper and often speedier service.

It is hoped that the situation will improve during 1973.

WORK CARRIED OUT DURING THE YEAR: —

	Council		Contractor (on behalf of the Council)	
	No. of emptyings	No. of loads	No. of emptyings	No. of loads
Council house tanks	15	39	1	4
Private tanks--free	229	324	73	105
—chargeable	167	262	29*	46
	411	625	103	155

Income from emptying septic tanks	£487·24
Contractors' charges	£739·80

* Paid for by Council and recharged at usual charges — Contracts and others where a liability had been accepted.

WATER SUPPLY

Water is supplied throughout the district, except for a few private supplies, by the Thames Valley Water Board, who have furnished the information shown at the end of this report.

DETAILS OF HOUSING, POPULATION, SEWERAGE AND WATER SUPPLIES IN PARISH ORDER

Parish	Area in acres	**Estimated population	Occupied dwellings		Total
			Private	Council	
Aldworth	1866	198	54	16	70
Ardington	2693	324	113	—	113
Beedon	2096	415	105	40	145
Blewbury	4246	1620	492*	73	565
Brightwalton	2054	312	94	15	109
Catmore	710	34	12	—	12
Chaddleworth	3400	521	125	57	182
Challow, East	1657	950	215	114	329
Challow, West	1070	172	38	22	60
Childrey	2929	450	119	41	160
Chilton	1448	880	283	38	321
Compton	3803	1271	335	102	437
Denchworth	1041	175	51	15	66
Farnborough	1886	109	34	4	38
Fawley	2190	140	44	5	49
Goosey	968	135	37	10	47
Grove	2513	4415	1401*	168	1569
Hampstead Norreys	4490	730	189	64	253
Hanney, East	2200	720	184	67	251
Hanney, West	1333	455	131	28	159
Harwell	2503	2624	634*	185	819
Hendred, East	3198	1344	353	113	466
Hendred, West	2002	309	86	27	113
Ilsley, East	3017	412	104	40	144
Ilsley, West	3037	304	91	17	108
Letcombe Bassett	1631	195	53	15	68
Letcombe Regis	2155	555	144	49	193
Lockinge	3763	198	70	—	70
Peasemore	2049	208	62	12	74
Sparsholt	3329	306	78	29	107
Upton	1413	369	105	24	129
Totals	72690	20850	5836	1390	7226

** Registrar General's figures at 30th June, 1972.

* These figures include caravans.

WATER SUPPLIES

Sewerage	Mains water standpipes	Estate supplies Sources dwellings		Private supplies Sources dwellings	
*	—	—	—	2	4
Yes	—	2	113	—	—
*	2	—	—	—	—
Yes	1	—	—	—	—
*	—	—	—	4	6
—	—	1	10	1	1
Yes (part)	—	—	—	1	3
Yes	—	—	—	—	—
Yes	—	—	—	—	—
Yes	—	—	—	—	—
Yes	—	—	—	1	1
Yes	—	3	20	4	4
Yes	2	—	—	1	1
—	—	—	—	—	—
Yes	—	1	16	—	—
*	—	—	—	1	3
Yes	—	—	—	—	—
Yes	—	3	36	3	5
Yes	2	—	—	—	—
Yes	—	—	—	—	—
Yes	—	—	—	—	—
Yes	2	—	—	4	11
*	3	2	10	—	—
Yes	—	1	8	1	4
Yes	—	1	7	—	—
*	—	—	—	—	—
Yes	2	—	—	—	—
Yes	—	1	70	—	—
*	—	—	—	3	3
*	—	—	—	—	—
Yes	—	—	—	—	—
<hr/>					
	14†	15	290	26	46

These figures are compiled from the best available information and cannot be regarded as completely accurate.

* Small disposal works in existence for serving Council Houses only.

† Includes only those still in use.

SAMPLING BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Three samples of mains water were taken during the year and each was found to be satisfactory.

Nine samples of water from 8 different private supplies were also taken. Of these, 7 were entirely satisfactory but 2 were found to be contaminated with coliform organisms. Advice was given and remedial action carried out. Two repeat samples proved to be satisfactory.

SWIMMING POOLS

Swimming pools were in use at the following schools during the year: —

Ardington, Blewbury, Childrey, Chilton, Compton (2), East Challow, Grove and Harwell.

Eleven visits were paid to these pools and it was only found necessary to give advice in one instance where insufficient chlorine levels were being maintained.

At Harwell experiments were carried out with bromine as the sterilizing agent. It appeared to be satisfactory and control was easier for the operator.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The Engineer and Surveyor reported as follows: —

EAST HENDRED, WEST HENDRED, ARDINGTON AND LOCKINGE SCHEME

Contract work has been in progress for ten months and the sewers have now been completed. Work on the pumping stations is in progress and it is expected that the scheme will be commissioned during the Summer of 1973.

EAST AND WEST HANNEY

The design of remedial works to selected lengths of sewer in these villages is complete and the work of relaying these lengths of sewer and modifications to two pumping stations will be put in hand in 1973.

EAST CHALLOW, WEST CHALLOW, CHILDREY AND SPARSHOLT

Active design work is in progress for the sewerage of the village of Sparsholt. The scheme will involve the linking of this system to the existing systems at Childrey, West Challow and East Challow

and the construction of a pumping station in East Challow by means of which the sewage from the whole system will be pumped to Bradfield Farm for treatment. The commissioning of the scheme will render the seriously overloaded East Challow Sewage Disposal Works redundant.

PEASEMORE SCHEME

A Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme has been designed for the village of Peasemore, and in accordance with the Council's instructions, the first phase, to serve the northern part of the village, will be put in hand in 1973.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS

The five existing licences covering establishments in Blewbury, Harwell, East Hendred, Brightwalton and East Hanney were all renewed and a new licence was granted for an establishment at Goosey. Inspections, as in previous years, were made jointly with the R.S.P.C.A. inspector, whose expertise and co-operation were much appreciated. Generally all premises were found to be satisfactory.

RODENT AND INSECT CONTROL

The following is a summary of the Annual Report submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food:—

	Non-agricultural	Agricultural
Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification)	246	—
Number infested by (a) rats	170	—
(b) mice	76	—
Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	1,207	50*
Number infested by (a) rats	261	27
(b) mice	63	12

* Includes 27 under contract Total value of contracts £600·50

Ninety-nine complaints of insect and other infestation were received and dealt with as follows: —

Wasps	...	...	...	...	47
Moles	...	...	...	...	11
Ants	...	...	...	...	7
Flies	...	...	...	...	7
Beetles	...	...	...	...	5
Fleas	...	...	...	...	7
Bees	...	...	...	...	3
Woodlice	...	...	...	...	2
Cockroaches	...	...	...	...	2
Mosquitoes	...	...	...	...	2
Bugs	...	...	...	...	1
Bats	...	...	...	...	1
Centipedes	...	...	...	...	1
Silver fish	...	...	...	...	1
Lice	...	...	...	...	1
Spiders	...	...	...	...	1

CARAVANS

PERMANENT SITES

Charles Simpson (Caravans) Ltd., Westfield Close and The Willows, Cane Lane, Grove (90 pitches)

During the latter part of the year the Council were invited to intervene in a dispute between proprietors and residents following the service of notices by the former indicating that rents were to be increased and new “Park Rules” introduced. It was pointed out that the Council’s main responsibility lay in the enforcement of site licence conditions, and in general these were being kept. However, investigations revealed that because of the increased sizes of some mobile homes the 20 feet spacing requirement was not being adhered to in all cases. The proprietors were therefore instructed to rectify the position, and at the end of the year plans were being prepared for a partial re-organisation of the site. Alterations were also scheduled whereby the amount of communal sanitary accommodation would be reduced, thus making more room for car parking and for a laundry block. The Fire Prevention Officer was also consulted and his recommendation that certain wooden sheds be re-sited or replaced by fireproof structures was passed on to the proprietors for appropriate action. It was agreed by the Council that in order to facilitate compliance with the spacing requirements the “10 feet from a carriageway” restriction be deleted from the licence subject to the concurrence of the Department of the Environment. The Department’s observations were still awaited at the end of the year.

The Chiltern Caravan Co., The Barrow, Harwell (35 pitches)

No major changes took place on this site during the year, but several more of the older caravans were replaced with modern mobile homes equipped with all amenities. The number of rented vans was again reduced.

Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Pask, Ladycroft Road, Blewbury (60 pitches)

All site roads were completely re-surfaced in tarmacadam during the year as requested by the Public Health Department and the improvement this work made to conditions on the site generally was considerable. A further reduction in the number of rented and older caravans was achieved and the need for communal facilities again decreased.

Individual sites (permanent)

Mr. H. S. Clargo, Bidhu, Blewbury (to be discontinued in 1973).

Mrs. B. A. Bosley, Grove Wick Farm, Grove.

Miss H. M. I. Balcombe, Quab Hill Farm, East Hendred.

One temporary site licence was issued during the year to Mr. W. Semple of Moores House, West Hendred, in order that he might house a retired employee. This expires on 31st October, 1975.

All other caravans in the district were covered by the exemption clauses of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960 and were used in the main by householders for accommodating elderly relatives where bedroom space was limited and by building contractors.

Survey

The full-scale survey called for by the Council was completed early in the year and formed not only a very useful basis for negotiations with proprietors on matters concerning licence conditions but also provided the Housing Committee with valuable statistical information on the housing need of caravan occupants.

GYPSIES

Little progress was made towards securing the purchase of the Woodhill Lane site at East Challow and eventually the County Council decided to seek a Compulsory Purchase Order. At the same time the Council were given notice by the owners of the land but the Court hearing was deferred. No settlement had been reached at the end of the year in spite of the fact that living conditions on the site were little short of deplorable, especially in wet weather with no sanitation, no electricity, no land drainage and only one standpipe for the use of all occupants. As many as six different families were accommodated on the site at different times of the year.

A total of 43 visits was made to caravan sites of all kinds during the year.

HOUSING

As in 1971 a complete review of the unfit house situation was made at the beginning of the year and the position was as follows: —

Properties subject to Demolition Orders ...	27	(7 occupied)
Properties subject to Closing Orders ...	18	(all void)
Properties subject to Formal Undertakings	48	(12 occupied)

It was estimated that there were a further 60–70 properties which might well need to be dealt with as unfit at some stage. Most of these were, however, occupied by tenants and owner/occupiers who were reluctant to move.

SUMMARY OF WORK CARRIED OUT UNDER SECTION 16 OF THE HOUSING ACT 1957 DURING 1972 (*subsequent to the above review*)

Reported as unfit	4
Demolition Orders made	2
Closing Orders made	nil
Formal undertakings accepted	4
Demolished	4
Reconditioned (formal)	7
(informal)	10

IMPROVEMENTS AND REPAIRS

Much improvement and repair work was carried out during the year mainly with the aid of grants or in order that Qualification Certificates might be issued with a view to changing controlled tenancies to regulated ones. It was only necessary to serve one informal notice and this was complied with promptly.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

The Engineer and Surveyor reports the following improvement grant work as having been carried out during the year: —

	Approved Owner/ Occupied	Tenanted	Completed Owner/ Occupied	Tenanted
Discretionary grants	25	12	23	9
Standard grants	6	3	8	1

Close liaison has been maintained with the Engineer and Surveyor's Department on improvement grant matters and in general a high quality of work has been achieved in the re-conditioning of sub-standard dwellings.

QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATES

Applications received	5
Certificates issued	6
Pending (repairs required)	3

In each of the above cases it was necessary to ask landlords to carry out repairs before certificates could be issued.

Total number of private dwellings inspected	...	143
Total number of visits	... ..	170

SELECTION OF TENANTS

- 5 new 2-bedroomed elderly persons' dwellings were completed at Denchworth.
- 29 applicants were rehoused (including 5 from unfit dwellings and 2 from caravans) and 13 transfers were effected.
- 97 applicants were visited in their homes and 538 interviews took place at the office.
- 48 visits were made to tenants on welfare and tenancy matters.

A complete analysis of the housing need of the district was again carried out in June and a good deal of valuable statistical information was collected for passing on to the new Vale of White Horse District Council due to be formed in 1973.

SUMMARY OF THE REMAINDER OF THE WORK OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

PETROLEUM

Administration of the Acts and Regulations governing the storage of petroleum spirit and mixtures continued and 79 premises were licensed at the end of the year.

New tanks were installed and tested at Harwell, Chilton and Brightwalton.

DRAINAGE AND SANITARY CONVENIENCES

Number of properties inspected	... ..	32
Number of nuisances abated (excluding work carried out by the septic tank emptying vehicle)	... ..	8
Number of conservancy closets replaced by water closets (including improvement grant work)	... ..	9

A full-scale sanitary survey was carried out in Peasemore with a view to assessing the need for a public sewer.

OTHER NUISANCES

Animals	... ..	Inspections	...	3
		Nuisances abated		1
Filthy premises and problem families	..	Inspections	...	6
		Nuisances abated		2
Ditches and streams	... ..	Inspections	...	15
		Nuisances abated		3
Smoke, grit and dust	... ..	Inspections	...	5
		Nuisances abated		1

The atmospheric pollution measuring apparatus referred to last year was duly installed in the New Grove Junior School, and at the end of the year it was providing useful background information on levels of smoke and sulphur dioxide in the immediate vicinity.

Complaints were received in the autumn concerning farmers burning stubble and waste straw. The matter was taken up with the Ministry of Agriculture, the National Farmers' Union and Warren Springs Laboratory, and although a useful exchange of ideas took place no positive means of preventing this practice were forthcoming. It is hoped, however, that the publicity given to the matter will at least prompt farmers to exercise the utmost care when burning off their fields.

A complaint of a pungent odour in a newly formed attic room in a house in Blewbury was received and investigated. The Public Analyst was consulted and samples of chipboard used by the builder for the floor were taken and shown to contain excessive amounts of formalin, and during warm weather the formaldehyde gas given off caused considerable discomfort to people using the room. The matter was taken up with the Board of Trade, the Timber Research Council and the importers (the chipboard being manufactured in Rumania) and it transpired that the board used was of a type and thickness intended only for roof work. Requests were made at the highest level that in future the boards containing high levels of formalin should be marked to indicate their unsuitability for use in habitable rooms.

Noise	...	...	...	...	...	Inspections	...	5
						Nuisances abated		1

During the year various noise recordings were obtained with the object of assessing the present background noise levels in the parishes throughout the district. This information will be useful should industrial or other development take place in the future which may result in complaints from residents of increased noise.

Remedial work to the grain dryer at Sparsholt was carried out during the year and resulted in a substantial reduction in noise levels. Although not quite reduced to levels recommended for a Rural District, the Council was satisfied a genuine effort had been made to meet the objections of nearby residents and accepted the position with a proviso that evening and night work during the grain-drying season would be reduced to a minimum.

Total number of complaints of all kinds (except pest control) 130

Approximate number of visits of all kinds made by Public
Inspectors 1,600

(This figure does not include work carried out by the Pest Control Officer, Rodent Operator and Cleansing Staff which is set out under separate headings.)

NOTE

The number of inspections made fell in 1972 for two main reasons:

- (a) There was a gap between one assistant Public Health Inspector leaving and another taking his place.
- (b) Both Chief and Deputy Public Health Inspectors were committed to attending a large number of meetings in connection re-organisation and in the preparation of reports to such meetings.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

FACTORIES ACT 1961

PART I OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on register	Inspections	Number of written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	1	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	46	10	—	—
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	6	6	—	—
Total	53	17	—	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Nil.

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK

Number of workers required by Section 133(1)(c):

Making, etc., of wearing apparel — 2.

Curtains and furniture hangings — 1.

July 1973.

WATER SUPPLIES IN THE COMBINED DISTRICT

During 1972 the area was supplied by the sources listed below, the Upton source being pumped for a few days only, and samples were collected as indicated.

- (a) The borehole at Wallingford provides part of the supply to the town via a water tower; additional water enters the area from Aston Tirrold, and from the Cleeve source via storage reservoirs.
- (b) The Wallingford Rural District is mainly supplied from sources at Aston Tirrold, Compton and Cholsey.
- (c) The Wantage Urban District is supplied from the works at Manor Road, Wantage, and from Childrey Warren.
- (d) The Wantage Rural District supply is provided from boreholes at Blewbury, Brightwalton, Childrey Warren, Compton and West Hendred.

The standby works at South Moreton and West Hagbourne were not used during the year, and the Upton source was in use for a short period only.

Samples as listed were collected from the pumping stations, reservoirs and distribution system.

SOURCE

Aston Tirrold 80, Blewbury 59, Brightwalton 47, Childrey Warren 120, Cholsey 40, Compton 45, Upton 13, Wallingford 59, Wantage 135, West Hendred 85.

STORAGE AND DISTRIBUTION

Aldworth Tower 2, Aston Tirrold Reservoir 1, Blewbury Reservoir 2, Brightwalton Tower 2, Chain Hill Reservoir 3, Churn Hill Reservoir 2, Farnborough Tower 3, Gramps Hill Reservoir 2, Hagbourne Hill Reservoir 2, Hendred Reservoir 2, Hill Barn Reservoir 3, Milton Reservoir 4, Milton Tower 4, Moulsoford Reservoir 4, Stanmore Reservoir 2, Steventon Reservoir 3, Wallingford Tower 4, West Hagbourne Reservoir 4, Tap and Distribution System 108.

CHEMICAL ANALYSES OF WATER SUPPLIES

	Aston Tirrold	Blewbury	B'walton	Childrey Warren
Appearance	Aerated, becoming clear and bright	Clear and bright	Clear and bright	Clear and bright
Colour (Hazen)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Odour	None	None	None	None
Turbidity (Silica Scale) ...	Nil	<0.2	Nil	0.8
Electrical Conductivity @ 20°C.	410	455	485	370
pH	7.3	7.25	7.12	7.35
Free carbon dioxide	15	22	37	18
Ammonical nitrogen (N) .	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Albuminoid nitrogen (N)	0.008	0.012	0.002	0.005
Nitrite (N)	absent	absent	absent	absent
Permanganate Value 4 hrs. at 27°C.	0.08	0.08	0.04	0.13
Iron	0.01	<0.01	0.015	0.01
Other Metals	absent	absent	absent	absent
Carbonate Hardness CaCO ₃	200	208	275	185
Non Carbonate Hardness CaCO ₃	8	37	17	25
Total Hardness CaCO ₃ ...	208	245	292	210
Chloride (Cl)	13.7	14.2	10.5	9.0
Nitrate (N)	4.2	5.7	5.7	3.3
Sulphate (SO ₄)	14.5	20	3.3	15.6
Calcium (Ca)	79.5	96	114	81.5
Magnesium (Mg)	2	1.25	1.8	1.5
Sodium (Na)	19.3	10.0	6.5	6.1
Potassium (K)	1.7	1.5	0.9	1.6
Silica (SiO ₂)	17	18	12	17
Phosphate (PO ₄)	0.04	0.025	0.09	0.02
Natural Fluoride (F)	0.12	<0.1	<0.1	0.07
Total dissolved solids	300	355	350	260

Results are given in mgm/litre where appropriate

< = less than

CHEMICAL ANALYSES OF WATER SUPPLIES — *continued*

	Compton	W'ford	Wantage	West Hendred
Appearance	Clear and bright	Clear and bright	Clear and bright	Clear and bright
Colour (Hazen)	Nil	< 5	Nil	Nil
Odour	None	None	None	None
Turbidity (Silica Scale) ...	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.8
Electrical Conductivity @ 20°C.	475	860	500	—
pH	7.6	7.2	7.5	7.25
Free carbon dioxide	9	35	17	35
Ammonical nitrogen (N) .	0.000	0.16	0.000	0.045
Albuminoid nitrogen (N)	0.012	0.04	0.005	0.012
Nitrite (N)	absent	< 0.001	Nil	< 0.001
Permanganate Value 4 hrs. at 27°C.	0.07	0.24	0.13	0.10
Iron	0.01	0.10	< 0.01	0.08
Other Metals	absent	absent	absent	absent
Carbonate Hardness CaCO ₃	212	310	250	298
Non Carbonate Hardness CaCO ₃	53	55	50	0
Total Hardness CaCO ₃ ...	265	365	300	255
Chloride (Cl)	17.0	36.6	13.3	16.5
Nitrate (N)	10.4	4.8	4.7	0.6
Sulphate (SO ₄)	17	165	26.8	40
Calcium (Ca)	102	136	116.5	92
Magnesium (Mg)	2.5	6	2.3	5.5
Sodium (Na)	8.6	77.5	7.8	48.8
Potassium (K)	3.5	7.3	2.1	6.2
Silica (SiO ₂)	11	20	23	22
Phosphate (PO ₄)	0.06	0.28	0.03	0.04
Natural Fluoride (F)	< 0.1	0.17	< 0.1	0.25
Total dissolved solids	375	675	445	425

Results are given in mgm/litre where appropriate

< = less than

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